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#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JAMES H. TOMPKINS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Judge James H. Tompkins, who passed away on January 9, 1996 at the age of 84. He had an abiding love for politics, public policy, and the law, and was known in Democratic circles all over the country since he attended so many Democratic national conventions over the years.

Jimmy Tompkins was a life-long resident of my home county, Colbert County, AL. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama and was a probate judge, district attorney, and practicing attorney in the county. He was a veteran of World War II, having served as lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Office in Europe, Africa, India, China, and Burma.

The family of Judge Tompkins is truly one of judges. He served as probate judge of Colbert County. His father, Nathaniel Pride Tompkins, also was a Colbert County probate judge, as was his wife, Maybeth Robbins Tompkins, who succeeded Jimmy as the judge of probate. Their son, Pride Tompkins, is currently a circuit judge in Colbert County. Jimmy's brother-in-law, David "Pal" Cochrane, served as judge of probate of Tuscaloosa County.

Jimmy was an outstanding trial lawyer long before he became a probate judge. He practiced with the firm of Smith, Tompkins & Hughston, one of the leading firms in the State. Partner James E. Smith was a State senator at one time and was also the Democratic national committeeman from Alabama. Partner Harold V. Hughston served as a circuit judge of Colbert County.

He had a wonderful, pleasing personality. The smile he always had on his face was hard to forget. Jimmy Tompkins had many friends and he was a great friend to many, including me, over the years, and will be sorely missed.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Maybeth Tompkins and her entire family in the wake of their tremendous loss.

#### SALUTE TO RETIRING SENATOR WILLIAM S. COHEN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor one of the many—and I might add that there are far too many—colleagues of mine who have announced they will be leaving us at the close of this session. Senator WILLIAM SEBASTIAN COHEN announced his retirement recently, and I would like to pay tribute to this close friend of mine.

Early on in his career in the Senate, in 1978, Time magazine called Senator COHEN "one of the GOP's brightest new stars." Well, Senator COHEN isn't ex-

actly new anymore, Mr. President, but he remains one of the brightest stars in his party. It is a shame to see him leave when he seems in many ways more brilliant than ever.

Senator COHEN became the senior Senator from Maine at a very early age, and it was a title that he carried with determination and distinction. He quickly established himself as a leader on foreign policy issues, playing a key role in shaping the foreign policy that prepared America for the gulf war and the new world order of the 1990's.

Early on in his Senate career, the temperate young Senator from Maine opposed adoption of the SALT II Treaty out of concern that it failed to take a hard enough stand against the Soviets. He was simultaneously an unyielding advocate for a strong national defense. His stance proved that one did not have to be an extreme and ardent conservative to have a patriotic belief in the importance of protecting our country's security.

He continued to serve as a distinguished leader on foreign policy issues, employing intelligence and forethought that often put him ahead of the curve. He spoke out strongly against Saddam Hussein's stockpile of chemical weapons long before August of 1990. He also advocated redesigning our Navy to employ a greater number of smaller ships, with the massive sea-lift capability that the post-cold war world requires. Our Nation's shining success in the gulf war was due to a great many factors, but any attempt to take account of all those factors must note the shifts in our Nation's defense strategy during the 1980s in which Senator COHEN played a large part.

On domestic issues, Senator COHEN has taken a careful, reasoned approach. He has refused to sit beholden to any one ideology or dogma, instead showing an unwavering commitment to the interests of his constituents. He opposed a large dam project in Maine that threatened the environment of that beautiful State, and he pushed hard to relax stringent Social Security disability requirements. Many have called Senator COHEN a persistent moderate in his own party. Well, Mr. President, if being a party moderate means recognizing the fact that, where possible, the Government should try to help out folks who need a hand, or having the courage to speak out against those who would, out of misplaced zeal and foolhardy arrogance, undermine our Constitution, then I say we need more of it.

Mr. President, Senator COHEN and I came to the Senate only 2 years apart. Over the years, I have come to count him as a close friend, and I am sure we will remain close even after he leaves here. But I will still miss him, and I will always be grateful for his loyal service to this Chamber.

#### U.S. DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN OIL BOX SCORE (FIRST REPORT)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have been deeply troubled for most of the 23 years I've been a Member of the Senate about the United States having become more and more deeply dependent upon foreign countries—many in the highly volatile Middle East—to supply the bulk of the energy needs of the American people. I held hearings on this perilous problem when I was chairman of the Agriculture Committee a decade ago, and more recently in my capacity as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The administration acknowledges that this is a national security concern, but, Mr. President, there obviously is a lot of fiddling while Rome burns—the administration has done precisely nothing about U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

Mr. President, Americans now are forced to rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of our needs. Not too long ago, 50 percent was pegged as the perilous threshold which must not be crossed. But, it was crossed, under President Clinton's watch, after U.S. blood was spilled in the Middle East in Desert Storm.

So, Mr. President, I begin today a report on this matter, a report that I will make to the Senate regularly. The American Petroleum Institute has confirmed that, for the week ending January 19, the United States imported 7,696,000 barrels of oil each day, 12 percent more than the 6,488,000 barrels imported daily 12 months ago.

Mr. President, as I say, I shall report to the Senate—and to the American people—on a regular basis regarding the increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil. We must not delay in seeking to solve this troubling problem.

#### THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business Thursday, January 25, the Federal debt stood at \$4,988,163,912,933.72, about \$12 billion shy of the \$5 trillion mark, which the Federal debt will exceed in a few months.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,933.50 as his or her share of that debt.

#### CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today as the chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs to express my concern at recent reports in the domestic and foreign media that the Government of the People's Republic of China has formulated plans for a military invasion or blockade of Taiwan.

These reports surfaced first a month or two ago in Hong Kong papers known to be sympathetic to Beijing—known,